

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 43 (Cancelled)

44. (original) A multimedia hub comprising: a chassis comprising two towers, a first tower and a second tower stand on a floor; a video display device extending between the first and second towers; a microprocessor disposed in the chassis and running an operating system comprising a user interface; at least one video display device disposed on the chassis and receiving display data from the operating system; at least one input device disposed on the chassis and arranged for user input of data to the operating system; at least one data port with which the hub can communicate with another device; and at least one marking-based output device to which a user can direct output.

45. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the at least one data port comprises a networking port.

46. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the at least one data port comprises a parallel interface port.

47. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the at least one data port comprises a serial interface port.

48. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the another device is a portable computer.

49. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the another device is a personal digital assistant.

50. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the another device is a storage device.

51. (original) The hub of claim 50 wherein the storage device is an optical media drive.

52. (original) The hub of claim 51 wherein the optical media drive is a read/write drive.

53. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the video display device a touch-sensitive display that is also one of the at least one input device.

54. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the at least one input device comprises a keyboard.

55. (original) The hub of claim 54 wherein the keyboard is a graphically-represented keyboard on a touch-sensitive display.

56. (original) The hub of claim 54 wherein the keyboard is disposed on the chassis.

57. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the at least one input device comprises a pointing device.

58. (original) The hub of claim 57 wherein the pointing device is a track pad.

59. (original) The hub of claim 57 wherein the pointing device is a touch-sensitive display.

60. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the at least one input device is a speech recognition package.

61. (original) The hub of claim 60 wherein the speech recognition package provides control over the hub and applications running on the hub via spoken commands.

62. (original) The hub of claim 60 wherein the speech recognition package provides navigation of a network to which the hub is attached via spoken commands.

63. (original) The hub of claim 60 wherein the speech recognition package comprises a command and control package.

64. (original) The hub of claim 60 wherein the speech recognition package comprises a speech-to-text package.

65. (original) The hub of claim 44 further comprising a work surface extending between the two towers.

66. (original) The hub of claim 44 further comprising a scanning interface arranged to accept an original object to be scanned to create an image of the original object.

67. (original) The hub of claim 66 wherein the image is stored on a storage medium of the device.

68. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein at least one of the first and second towers houses the marking-based output device.

69. (original) The hub of claim 68 wherein at least one of the first and second towers houses an output tray of the marking-based output device.

70. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the video display device is a water-vapor based display device.

71. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the video display device is a projection device.

72. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the video display device is a flat panel display.

73. (original) The hub of claim 44 wherein the at least one data port includes a video input port.

74. (original) The hub of claim 73 wherein the another device is a camera connected to the video input port.

75. (original) The hub of claim 74 further comprising video conferencing software sending input from the camera and from an audio input port of the at least one input and receiving video data and audio data via a communications line connected to the hub, the received video data being shown on the at least one video display device and the audio data being played over an audio device connected to an audio output port of the at least one data port.

76. (original) The hub of claim 44 further comprising a payment acceptance device.

77. (original) The hub of claim 76 wherein the payment acceptance device is a magnetic card reader with attendant card authorization software.

78. (original) The hub of claim 76 wherein the payment acceptance device is a cash acceptor.

79 – 106 (Cancelled)